

1. A method for monitoring resources of a data processing network on behalf of consumer entities within the network, comprising the steps of:

- determining [the] monitoring requirements of a consumer entity;
- comparing the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity with [the] monitoring capabilities of a plurality of monitoring entities to identify at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity; and

- in response to identifying at least one monitoring entity having monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity, selecting at least one of the identified monitoring entities and binding the consumer entity to the selected at least one monitoring entity.

15. A method for monitoring resources of a data processing network on behalf of consumer entities within the network, comprising the steps of:

- determining [the] monitoring requirements of a consumer entity;
- comparing the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity with [the] monitoring capabilities of a plurality of monitoring entities to determine whether any monitoring entities have monitoring capabilities matching the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity; and

- initiating a negotiation between the consumer entity and a plurality of monitoring entities to select a best match between the monitoring requirements of the consumer entity and the monitoring capabilities of the plurality of monitoring entities.

16. A method for monitoring resources of a data processing system, comprising the steps of:

- identifying [the] monitoring requirements of a currently active set of consumer entities;

- determining whether a currently active set of monitoring functions of monitoring entities are consistent with the monitoring requirements of the currently active set of consumer entities; and